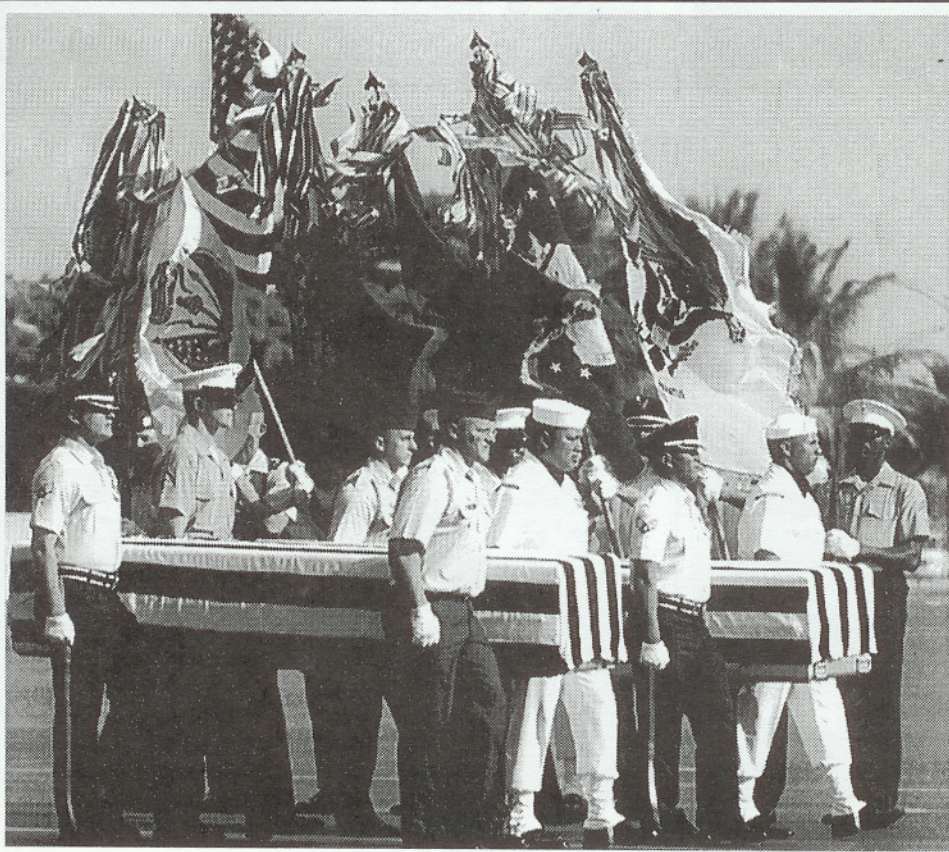


## MAKIN RAIDER RECOVERY TEAM TO BE PART OF REUNION PROGRAM

Raiders, families and friends who attend our 2000 Reunion September 12 through September 17 in Chicago are in for a very special experience. The dedicated people from the Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii (CILHI) who located and recovered the remains of our Makin KIA Raiders last December will appear at our Chicago Reunion to speak to our membership and explain, in detail, their work and all aspects of how they locate, identify and conclude a successful project such as the Makin Raider recovery. This is certainly a program none of us would want to miss.

The CILHI team will come from their home base at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii to present the program to our members and guests that is sure to be unique and educational. These hardworking and dedicated specialists are true professionals who, when called, respond to any place on earth where they are needed to locate fallen and unrecovered American military personnel. Members of the team coming to Chicago include Army Lt. Col. William W. Carmichael, William Belcher and Bradley Strum.

They are truly a group of unsung heroes that all Americans should be very proud of. We, The United States Marine Raider Association are extremely grateful and appreciative of their efforts on our behalf.



Above: After locating the probable dig site, the excavation team, under the direction of CILHI officials, begin their painstaking search. In the background, hanging from slings, are fine mesh sieves through which every bit of excavated earth passes in order to find the smallest of artifacts and to ensure that nothing of significance is missed.

Left: Caskets containing the remains of Makin Raider KIA's are escorted by a multi-service honor guard upon their arrival at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. At this point, they were halfway home, but much more investigation and identification efforts remain to be done. Forensic tests can easily take a year or more to complete.



## MAKIN ISLAND RAIDER'S GRAVE EXCAVATION

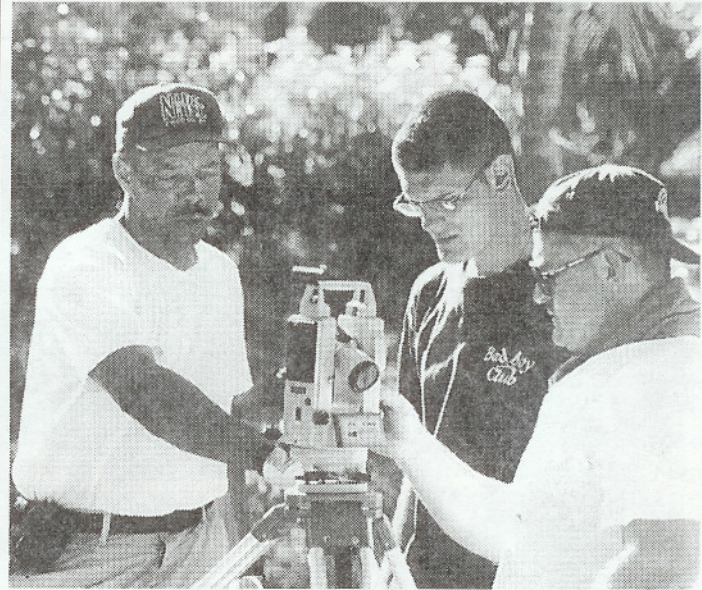
In our last Raider Patch, we were fortunate enough to provide our readers with some excellent photographs of the repatriation ceremony of our 20 Raiders to American soil. The 57-year journey was the culmination of some very dedicated people who performed yeoman's efforts under rigorous conditions.

We are fortunate once again to have received photos of the actual dig on Makin's Butaritari. We can't identify most of the individuals in the photos, however our deep gratitude is extended to everyone of those members of the Raider recovery team. Artifacts recovered include the rusted relic of an M-1 Garand rifle (shown in our last Patch) which will be featured in a Makin Island Raid display at our Richmond Raider museum and seven legible dog tags. Others were too corroded and otherwise unreadable. They will be thoroughly examined at the CILHI lab in Hawaii. All names will remain classified until investigation is completed and next of kin notified.

These photos were taken by U.S. Army S/Sgt. Erica Bushog and graphically portray the procedures and professional conduct the Army's CILHI team used. On behalf of the Raider Association and the American people — thank you, thank you, thank you.



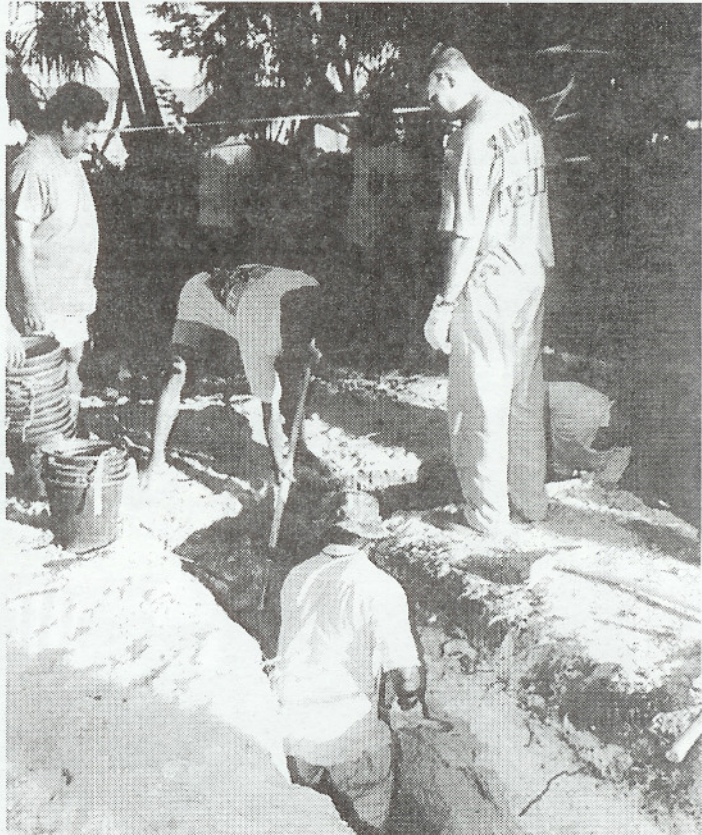
Army medic Joseph P. Wilson marks area where unexploded ordnance was located near grave site.



Members of CILHI'S recovery team prepare for preliminary work at grave site.



Excavation begins with shallow trench that was gradually enlarged.



CILHI member oversees Butaritari native workers during excavation





Grave site is not far from beach where 1942 assault landed



Small amounts of sand are shoveled into buckets prior to sifting



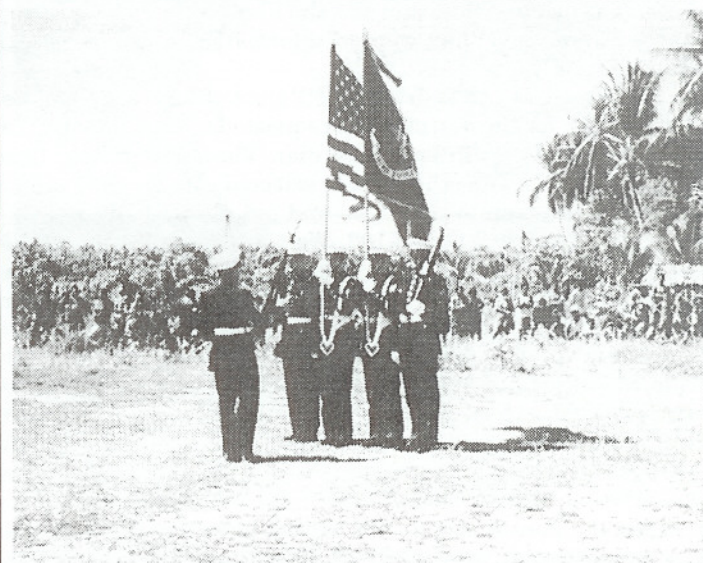
As the excavation site expands, more and more workers are needed. Note stump of palm tree in left foreground that has been removed.



Staked markers with strings attached show where some Raider remains were discovered



Local help was invaluable. Note bucket brigade lined-up to pour excavation material into sifters for recovery of smallest of artifacts



Butaritari islanders look on as U. S. Marine Corps Honor Guard prepares to escort caskets aboard C-130 for trip to Hickam Field